

ELIGIBILITY FOR INCREASED BENEFITS  
BECAUSE OF ESSENTIAL PERSONS

**§ 416.220 General.**

If you are a *qualified* individual and have an essential person you may be eligible for increased benefits. You may be a qualified individual and have an essential person only if you received benefits under a State assistance plan approved under title I, X, XIV, or XVI (AABD) of the Act for December 1973. Definitions and rules that apply to qualified individuals and essential persons are discussed in §§ 416.221 through 416.223.

**§ 416.221 Who is a qualified individual.**

You are a qualified individual if—

- (a) You received aid or assistance for the month of December 1973 under a State plan approved under title I, X, XIV, or XVI (AABD) of the Act;
- (b) The State took into account the needs of another person in deciding your need for the State assistance for December 1973;
- (c) That other person was living in your home in December 1973; and
- (d) That other person was not eligible for State assistance for December 1973.

**§ 416.222 Who is an essential person.**

- (a) *General rule.* A person is an essential person if—
  - (1) That person has continuously lived in the home of the same qualified individual since December 1973;
  - (2) That person was not eligible for State assistance for December 1973;
  - (3) That person was never eligible for SSI benefits in his or her own right or as an eligible spouse; and
  - (4) There are State records which show that under a State plan in effect for June 1973, the State took that person's needs into account in determining the qualified individual's need for State assistance for December 1973.

Any person who meets these requirements is an essential person. This means that the qualified individual can have more than one essential person.

(b) *Absence of an essential person from the home of a qualified individual.* An essential person may be temporarily absent from the house of a qualified individual and still be an essential person. For example, the essential person could

be hospitalized. We consider an absence to temporary if—

- (1) The essential person intends to return;
- (2) The facts support this intention;
- (3) It is likely that he or she will return; and
- (4) The absence is not longer than 90 days.

(c) *Absence of a qualified individual from his or her home.* You may be temporarily absent from your home and still have an essential person. For example, you could be hospitalized. We consider an absence to be temporary if—

- (1) You intend to return;
- (2) The facts support your intention;
- (3) It is likely that you will return; and
- (4) Your absence does not exceed six months.

(d) *Essential person becomes eligible for SSI benefits.* If an essential person becomes eligible for SSI benefits, he or she will no longer be an essential person beginning with the month that he or she becomes eligible for the SSI benefits.

**§ 416.223 What happens if you are a qualified individual.**

(a) *Increased SSI benefits.* We may increase the amount of your SSI benefits if—

- (1) You are a qualified individual; and
- (2) You have one or more essential persons in your home.

In subpart D, we explain how these increased benefits are calculated.

(b) *Income and resource limits.* If you are a qualified individual, we consider the income and resources of an essential person in your home to be yours. You are eligible for increased SSI benefits if—

- (1) Your resources which are counted do not exceed the limit for SSI eligibility purposes (see subpart L); and
- (2) Your income which is counted for SSI eligibility purposes (see subpart K) does not exceed the sum of—
  - (i) The SSI Federal benefit rate (see subpart D); and
  - (ii) The proper number of essential person increments (for the value of an essential person increment see subpart D). One essential person increment is